

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 9-31 are pending in the application. Claims 28-31 have been cancelled. Please amend Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 14, 24, and 26. Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments to Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 14, 24, and 26 prior to further examination. No new matter has been introduced.

Presently Claimed Invention

The present invention provides an intermittent conductive coating 72 or material disposed on either peaks or valleys of a subwavelength optical microstructure, such as a moth-eye structure or film 12. In all embodiments (Figs. 25-31) the intermittent material disposed on the subwavelength optical microstructure 12 blocks light from entering the microstructure 12. Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 14, 24, and 26 have been amended to include these features.

Regarding Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 9-14, 23, 24, 26, and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ito (Japanese Patent Publication JP 11-84129).

Ito provides a sheet-like polarizing film disposed on a right-triangle-like prism 1 arranged in the shape of an array. Each right-triangle-like prism 1 includes a slanted surface 2 and a perpendicular surface 3. The vapor deposition angle of the film on the slanted surface 2 is greater than the vapor deposition angle of the film on the perpendicular surface 3. In no instance is the polarizing film disposed intermittently over the right-triangle-like prisms and in all instances the polarizing film allows light to enter the right-triangle-like prisms. (*See* Ito, Figs. 1 and 2).

Therefore, Ito does not teach, suggest, or otherwise make obvious “an intermittent light-transmissive blocking surface” as now claimed in amended Claim 1 because Ito does not include these features. Independent Claims 9, 11, 13, 14, 24, and 26 have been amended to include similar limitations and are allowable for the same reasons. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 14, 24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Claims 2-4 depend from amended Claim 1, Claim 10 depends from amended Claim 9, Claim 12 depends from amended Claim 11, Claim 23 depends from amended Claim 14, and Claim 27 depends from amended Claim 26 and are allowable for the same reasons. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 2-4, 10, 12, 23, and 27 under section 102.

Claims 1-3, 9-14, 23, 24, 27-29, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Maruyama (Japanese Patent Publication JP 2000-221324).

Maruyama provides a liquid crystal display device formed by disposing a backlight 6, a reflection polarizing device 5, and a liquid crystal panel 2 equipped with polarizing plates 1a, 1b. The reflection polarizing device 5 consists of an isotropic layer 3 and an anisotropic layer 4 laminated together and a geometric structure face 11. The geometric structure face 11 includes a plurality of prism faces 10 formed on the interface between the isotropic layer 3 and the anisotropic layer 4. Maruyama does not include a conductive coating disposed on either peaks or valleys of a subwavelength optical microstructure, let alone an intermittent conductive coating, wherein the conductive coating blocks light from entering the microstructure. (See Maruyama, Figs. 1-7).

Therefore, Maruyama does not teach, suggest, or otherwise make obvious “an intermittent light-transmissive blocking surface” as now claimed in amended Claim 1 because Maruyama does not include these features. Independent Claims 9, 11, 13, 14, 24, and 26 have been amended to include similar limitations and are allowable for the same reasons. Claim 28 has been herein cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 9, 11, 13, 14, 24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102.

Claims 2-3 depend from amended Claim 1, Claim 10 depends from amended Claim 9, Claim 12 depends from amended Claim 11, Claim 23 depends from amended Claim 14, and Claim 27 depends from amended Claim 26 and are allowable for the same reasons. Claims 29 and 31. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 23, and 27 under section 102.

Claim 28 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Francis (US Patent No. 3,291,871). Claim 28 has been herein cancelled.

Regarding Section 103 Rejections

Claims 15-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maruyama.

Claim 14 has been argued above to be allowable. As such, dependent Claims 15-22 are also allowable. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Claims 30-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Francis in view of Ito. Claims 30 and 31 have been herein cancelled.

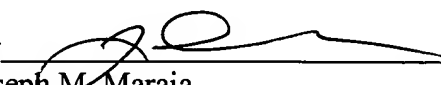
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By


Joseph M. Maraia

Registration No. 55,926

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

Dated:

12/8/05